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Assembly
California Legislature



JIM BEALL JR.
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

CHAIR, HUMAN SERVICES
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HIGHER EDUCATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS

April 2, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
c/o Jeff Melby
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

I would like to add my full support of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department's request for Bay Area Ridge Trail grant funds for trail relocation and improvements to the Penitencia Creek Trail in the area between I-680 and Piedmont Road. The funding will allow the County to take advantage of a mutually beneficial partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to not only correct stream erosion problems and trail safety concerns, but also relocate the trail to additionally help improve environmental conditions in the stream corridor.

The improvements to the trail in this area are vital for allowing the community to use the trail safely. It links the community to surrounding city and county parks, educational facilities, and community centers and youth facilities. It also connects to other local and regional trail systems and is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. As you can see, the trail is an integral part of the community's transportation and recreation infrastructure.

This trail also has broad community support. Many of the surrounding homeowner associations, such as the Ponderosa Wood Home Owners Association and the Capitol Estates Home Owners Association, support the trail and its health and welfare. Volunteers from these organizations and others have worked hundreds of hours with many different agency staff to remove trash and maintain vegetation along the trail.

This trail is loved by its community. Your favorable recommendation to provide grant funds to support this project is requested and would be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Beall Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Assemblymember Jim Beall, Jr.
California State Assembly, District 24

RECEIVED

APR 04 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



STATE CAPITOL
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Assembly
California Legislature



JOE COTO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT
CHAIR, LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

COMMITTEES

INSURANCE, CHAIR
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM & INTERNET MEDIA
BANKING & FINANCE
EDUCATION

April 30, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
c/o Jeff Melby
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

I would like to add my support of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department's request for Bay Area Ridge Trail grant funds for trail relocation and improvements to the Penitencia Creek Trail in the area between I-680 and Piedmont Road in my Assembly District. The funding will allow the County to take advantage of a mutually beneficial partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to not only correct stream erosion problems and trail safety concerns, but also relocate the trail to additionally help improve environmental conditions in the stream corridor.

The improvements to the trail in this area are vital for allowing the community to use this trail safely. It links the community to surrounding city and county parks, educational facilities, and community centers and youth facilities. It also connects to other local and regional trail systems and is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. As you can see, the trail is an integral part of the community's transportation and recreation infrastructure.

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This trail is loved by its community. Your favorable recommendation to provide grant funds to support this project is requested and would be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Coto".

JOE COTO
Assemblymember, 23rd District



Elaine K. Alquist

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR, 13TH DISTRICT: *The Heart of Silicon Valley*

Representing San Jose, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Mountain View and Gilroy

April 30, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
c/o Jeff Melby
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

I would like to add my full support of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department's request for Bay Area Ridge Trail grant funds for trail relocation and improvements to the Penitencia Creek Trail in the area between I-680 and Piedmont Road. The funding will allow the County to take advantage of a mutually beneficial partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to not only correct stream erosion problems and trail safety concerns, but also relocate the trail to additionally help improve environmental conditions in the stream corridor.

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This trail is loved by its community. Your favorable recommendation to provide grant funds to support this project is requested and would be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Elaine K. Alquist
Senator, 13th District
Representing the Heart of Silicon Valley

CHAIR:

HUMAN SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AGING & LONG-TERM CARE
SUBCOMMITTEE 3 ON HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON EMERGING
TECHNOLOGIES AND ECONOMIC
COMPETITIVENESS

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BUDGET
EDUCATION
HEALTH
REVENUE AND TAXATION

SELECT COMMITTEES

DEFENSE AND AEROSPACE
INDUSTRY
MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED
HOMES
SCHOOL SAFETY

SUBCOMMITTEE

STEM CELL RESEARCH OVERSIGHT

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MAY 03 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



OCT 15 2006

SCC Parks & Recreation

Mr. Richard P. Santos, District #3 Director
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686

October 12, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Attn. Abe Doherty
Costal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13 Floor
Oakland, CA. 94612

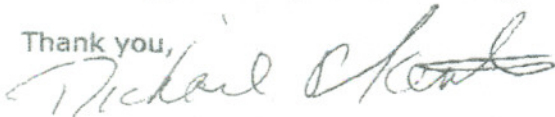
Chairman Douglas Bosco

I would like to add my full positive support of Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation applying for possible Bay Area Ridge Trail grant funds for trail repairs and planning improvements for the Penitencia Creek trail in the area between I-680 and Piedmont Road. The proposed design and improvements to the trail in this area are vital for allowing the community to use the trail safely and improving the environmental conditions of the trail along the creekside. With the advent of the Capitol Avenue light rail system station, the trail has seen considerable increased use by the neighborhood. Additionally, the trail is a vital community link to surrounding City and County Parks, educational facilities, community centers and youth facilities. It connects to other local and regional trail systems and is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Mike Flaughner, a local neighbor to the trail system, and his volunteers have worked very well with our Water District staff. They have donated countless volunteer hours to remove trash from the trail and maintaining vegetation along the trail. We need more people like the Ponderosa volunteers who our eyes and ears when they observe any environment damage and continually making our environment better.

Please support this possible funding.

Thank you,



Richard P. Santos, Santa Clara Valley Water District Director #3

Costal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13 Floor
Oakland, CA. 94612

Chairman Douglas Bosco

Chairman Bosco I would like to take this opportunity to describe the importance of the Penitencia Creek trail to the community and the communities support for it. The trail was built in the 1970s and has become an integral part of the communities transportation and recreation infrastructure. It links the strips of Santa Clara County, City of San Jose And Santa Clara Valley Water District park lands that make up Penitencia Creek Park Chain. The Park runs from the County parks gardens at Maybury Rd and Jackson Ave to Piedmont road where it joins with Penitencia Creek City Park which includes a wildlife center, Rainbow Girls Scout facility and the Berryessa Community Center. In addition to these community resources the city is planning to build a childrens park at Commodore Dr. and Jackson Ave across the creek from the Penitencia Creek County Park Gardens. Area residents from the east side of I-680 have indicated that the trail would be their preferred way to reach the new park. The trail between Jackson Ave. and Capitol Ave is the key link between these community resources. Recently the Valley Transit Authority completed the Capital Ave. extension of Light Rail and constructed Penitencia creek station where Capital Ave crosses Penitencia Creek. This station now bisects the trail at Capital Ave and the trail has become the natural as well as the primary corridor for pedestrian and bicycle users of Light Rail coming from the communities to the west of I-680. I-680 has a funneling effect on pedestrian and bicycle traffic acting as a man made barrier. Many users use the section of trail between Jackson Ave and Capital Ave., passing under I-680, daily: for commuting to and from light rail, traveling to recreational opportunities such as the near by parks as well as the more distant Alum Rock Park, and to and from Independence High School. In the larger picture the trail is part of the Bay ridge trail system and is planned to be the major cross valley trail in this part of the valley. To this end the city of San Jose is working to extend the current trail. It will be opening Reach 2 (Piedmont Rd. to Noble Ave.) in the near future and has finished the draft Master Plan for reach 1 which will take the trail from Noble Ave. into Alum Rock where it will connect up with the Bay Area Ride Trail. The city is also studying extending the trail from Maybury Rd. to King Rd Reach 6. with eventual connection to the Coyote Creek trail near the San Jose Flea Market. Just in the last year I have seen a doubling of traffic along the trail specifically between Jackson Ave and Capital Ave. With the coming improvements to and facilities near the trail, usage and importance of the trail to the community will increase dramatically.

Here in lies the issue, the age of the key section of trail is the oldest. It has a problem that is immediate, threatening and needs to be addressed.

- The trail has a serious erosion problem near Capital Ave.
 - The bank next to Penitencia Creek trail is falling into the creek
 - The trail edge along that bank is cracking away and subsiding with the bank

The community is behind the efforts to maintain and improve this key section of trail and the trail in general. Every time I'm on the trail I'm asked what is being done to fix the above mentioned issue. To help the community I formed a group of volunteers (Ponderosa Woods Community Volunteers) to help the various agencies tackle the problems of the trail between Jackson Ave. and Capital Ave. We have over the past 4 years had several major cleanups and have removed 3 tons of trash and debris from the area. We logged over 1500 hours of volunteer time working on this trail since 2002 This is the level of volunteerism that is committed by the community and shows the support for the trail and its importance to the community.

Beyond the volunteers there is wide support in the community by the following Home owners associations:

- Ponderosa Woods Home Owners Association
- Capitol Estates Homeowners association
- Courtyard Berryessa Home Owners association

The neighborhood and community organization Berryessa Citizen Advisory Council is supportive of the trail and its health and welfare.

County wide organizations are supportive as part of their trails plans, these are:

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

Commissioners and Councilmen are supportive of the maintenance an improvement of the trail, these are:

- Santa Clara Valley Water District Director Richard Santos
 - Director Santos has personally walked the trail noting the issues an pledging support on their resolution
- City of San Jose Councilman Chuck Reed
 - Councilman Reed has walked the trail and supported the trails needs
 - It is the number 1 item on his list of priorities for this area, as presented at his neighborhood priorities meeting yearly.

At all levels of the community from volunteer to Council member there is wide support for the trail its maintenance and improvement. Your help in support of the maintenance of this trail will be very appreciated.

Regards,
Mike Flaughner



Adopt-A-Trail Liaison, Penitencia Creek Trail, Santa County Parks and Rec.
Adopt-A-Creek Permit Holder, Penitencia Creek, Santa Clara Valley Water District
Member of the Volunteer Coordinating Council, Santa Clara County Parks and Rec.
Member Berryessa Citizen Advisory Council Board
Member Ponderosa Woods Home Owners Association
Member San Jose Parks Commission